CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A printer, comprising:

(a) an I/O port capable of receiving a plurality of commands describing a document, the commands including both a named sequence describing a form and an indicator;

(b) first means for responding to the indicator indicating permission is granted to print each instance of the form from the same video data, by processing and printing the named sequence according to a first printing algorithm.

2. The printer of claim 1, further comprising:

(c) second means for responding to the indicator indicating each instance of the form is to be printed from new video data, by processing and printing the named sequence according to a second printing algorithm

3. The printer of claim 2, further comprising:

(d) third means for responding to the indicator indicating that the form is a fixed form, by processing and printing the named according to a third algorithm.

4. The printer of claim 3, further comprising:

(e) fourth means for responding to the indicator indicating that the form is a background image, by applying a fourth printing algorithm to process and print the named sequence.

5. The printer of claim 1, wherein the plurality of commands are received from a computer externally connected to the I/O port.

6. The printer of claim 5, wherein the indicator is generated by the computer.

7. The printer of claim 4, wherein the plurality of commands are received from an externally connected source.

8. In a printer, a method of processing and printing a named sequence describing a form, comprising:

(a) receiving the named sequence and an associated parameter;

(b) responding to the parameter being set to a first value, indicating permission is granted to print each instance of the form from the same video data, by converting the named sequence into video data and then using the video data to print each instance of the form.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

(c) responding to the parameter being set to a second value, indicating that each instance of the form is to be printed from new video data, by generating new video data to print each instance of the form.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

(c) responding to the parameter being set to a second value, indicating each instance of the form is to be printed from new video data, by converting the named sequence into display list data and then using the display list data to print each instance of the form.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the plurality of commands are received from a source externally connected to the printer.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the plurality of commands are received from a source externally connected to the printer

13. The method of claim 12, wherein step (c) comprises the following substep:

(c.1) flagging the display list data as a candidate for caching.

14. A computer, comprising:

(a) means for generating a plurality of commands describing a document, the commands including both a named sequence describing a form and at least one command indicating permission is granted to convert the named sequence once into video data and to then print each instance of the form from the video data; and

(b) means for transmitting the plurality of commands to a printer.

15. The computer of claim 14, further comprising:

(c) means for generating a second plurality of commands describing a second document, the commands including a second named sequence describing a form and at least one command indicating new video data is to be generated to print each instance of the form.

16. The computer of claim 14, further comprising:

(d) means for generating a third plurality of commands describing a third document, the commands including a third named sequence describing a form and at least one command indicating the form is fixed form.

17. The computer of claim 14, further comprising:

(e) means for generating a fourth plurality of commands describing a fourth document, the commands including a fourth named sequence describing a form and at least one commands indicating the form represents a background image.

18. The computer of claim 14, wherein the printer is responsive to the plurality of commands by printing the document.

19. The computer of claim 14, wherein the printer is connected to the computer over a network.

20. The computer of claim 14, wherein the plurality of commands form a print job.